

REMARKS

This submission is in response to the Official Action dated February 9, 2005. Reconsideration of the above identified application, in view of the above amendments and the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 9 and 10 have been added. Claims 1-8 have been amended. No new matter is added. Claims 1-10 are presently pending. Claims 1, 2, and 4-6 stand rejected. Claims 3, 7, and 8 are objected to.

II. Acknowledgement of Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the acknowledgement of allowable subject matter in claims 3, 7, and 8. Claims 3, 7, and 8 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Applicant believes that claim 1 is allowable over the cited prior art at least for the foregoing reasons. Therefore, claims 3, 7, and 8, which depend on claim 1, are believed to be allowable. However, Applicant stands ready to rewrite claims 3, 7, and 8 to be in independent form so that they do not depend on rejected claims, if requested by the Examiner.

III. 35 U.S.C. § 112 Rejection

Claims 4-8 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite. Specifically, the Examiner states that the terms "rotating-type" and "fastening-type" render claims 4-8 indefinite. Claims 4, 5, 7, and 8 have been amended to replace "rotating-type" with "rotatable" and "fastening-type" with "fastenable." Applicant respectfully submits that, in view of the aforementioned amendments, the rejection of claims 4-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, should be withdrawn, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

IV. 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejection

Claims 1, 2, and 4-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,158,279 to Saiki in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,616,165 to Tsuji. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Saiki discloses a speedometer mounting device that includes a headlight case 60 and a light body 61 in the headlight case 60. A bulb 62 is removably attached to the light body 61. The headlight case 60 includes a meter mounting hole 64 at an upper rear side and a wiring hole 65 at a lower rear side. A speedometer 32 is inserted through the meter mounting hole 64 from above the headlight case 60 and mounted to a meter stay 66.

The Examiner contends that Saiki discloses that the bulb 62 is removable from a rear side of the lamp 30 and that the meter unit is removable to allow access to the interior of the headlight case. The Examiner, however, states that Saiki does not disclose a meter unit that is movable between two positions, but that Tsuji discloses this feature.

Tsuji discloses a meter display 45 that is pivotably mounted on a cover for a storage compartment located at a front side of a vehicle. The Examiner contends that the meter display is pivotably mounted to allow access to an enclosure that mounts a head lamp.

The present invention provides a head lamp unit with a bulb mounting and removing portion in a rear surface thereof. This feature provides the advantage of securing the front view for the rider but also securing the visibility of the meter unit (page 1, lines 20-23, of the present Specification). The present invention also provides a meter unit that is movable between two positions and disposed near the upper rear portion of the head lamp unit. As a result, when the meter unit is positioned in a normal position, the front field of vision for a rider can be secured while providing good visibility of the meter unit. When the meter unit is positioned in a bulb replacing position, the meter unit is prevented from being caught by the bulb mounting and removing portion of the rear surface of the head lamp unit, thereby providing easy access to the

bulb mounting and removing portion (page 3, line 18, to page 4, line 1, of the present Specification).

Neither Saiki nor Tsuji disclose or suggest all of the features of the present invention described above. More specifically, neither Saiki nor Tsuji disclose or suggest allowing access to a head lamp unit from a rear surface thereof, as set forth in claim 1. Furthermore, neither Saiki nor Tsuji disclose or suggest a bulb mounting and removing portion in the rear surface of a head lamp unit, as set forth in claim 1.

Saiki does not disclose being able to access the bulb from the rear of the headlight case 60. Saiki's headlight case 60 includes three openings: the open front portion (Saiki, col. 4, line 4), the meter mounting hole 64 at the upper rear side, and the wiring hole 65 at the lower rear side. However, Saiki does not disclose or suggest that one may remove the bulb 62 from either the meter mounting hole 64 or the wiring hole 65 on the rear side of the headlight case 60 rather than through the open front portion of the headlight case 60. Furthermore, the speedometer 32 is fixed to the top of the headlight case 60 by screws 76 which are inserted through the inside of the headlight case 60, thereby requiring access to the inside of the headlight case 60 via the open front portion to install the speedometer 32. Therefore, there is no advantage to removing the speedometer 32 in order to remove the bulb 62 through the rear side of the headlight case 60 if one must go through the headlight case 60 via the open front portion to fasten the speedometer 32 back onto the headlight case 60. The meter mounting hole 64 in the headlight case 60 is provided simply to allow the speedometer 32 to be mounted to the top of the case 60. Saiki does not teach the ability to remove the bulb from a rear side of the case 60 and therefore does not disclose a bulb mounting and removing portion in the rear surface of a head lamp unit, as set forth in claim 1.

Tsuji also does not disclose or suggest accessing the head lamp through the storage compartment, as contended by the Examiner. As shown in Figs. 2 and 3, the storage compartment 27 does not include an opening for accessing the headlight. Furthermore, Tsuji does not disclose being able to access the bulb from the rear of the headlight. Therefore, Tsuji

also does not disclose a bulb mounting and removing portion in the rear surface of a head lamp unit, as set forth in claim 1.

Applicant respectfully submits that for at least the aforementioned reasons, the rejection of claims 1, 2, and 4-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be withdrawn, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

If there are any other issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through either a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Dated: May 4, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By Denise L. Poy
Denise L. Poy
Registration No.: 53,480

DARBY & DARBY P.C.
P.O. Box 5257
New York, New York 10150-5257
(212) 527-7700
(212) 753-6237 (Fax)
Attorneys/Agents For Applicants